

FSILG Assistance Has Shortfall

By Keith J. Winstein
SENIOR EDITOR

MIT's mistaken optimism about rush has led to a budget shortfall in a program to help fraternities and independent living groups survive the transition to the new freshmen-in-dormitories residence system.

The program, known as the Financial Transition Plan, is designed to help groups adapt by reimbursing each house for 80 percent of the cost of its empty beds, capped at a fraction of the house that decreases and phases out after three years. Because freshmen have been required to live in dormitories for the past two years, fraternities, residential sororities, and independent living groups have had to fund their budgets with one less class of dues-paying residents.

But as fraternities learned in December, MIT did not allocate enough money to fully fund the program beyond its first year. This year, the second year of the program, FSILGs were due \$628,000 under the program's formula, said Frank Council of the Student Life Programs office — \$128,000 more than was projected and requested by the office in 2002. "For the 2003-2004 academic year, due to MIT's financial constraints, monies above the initial allocation of \$500K are not available," the office wrote on its Web site.

Student-admin plan, MIT budget

The Financial Transition Plan was drafted by a student-administrator committee and approved in February 2002 by Larry G. Benedict, the dean for student life. To calculate its first-

year budget, student life staff collected information from each house in late 2001 to estimate the number of empty beds the houses would have: 190 beds, for a cost of \$750,000.

For subsequent years, the office's budget request rested on the assumption that the total number of empty beds would not increase — that is,

the budget assumed that FSILGs would continue to do as well in recruiting new members after 2002, when Simmons Hall opened and freshmen were required to stay in dormitories until their sophomore year, as they had done before.

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MIT Takes First Place At Putnam Math Test

By Jenny Zhang
NEWS EDITOR

MIT has won the 2003, 64th annual William Lowell Putnam Math Competition for the first time since 1979. The team members,

selected by Professors of Mathematics Hartley Rogers Jr. and Richard P. Stanley, are Reid W. Barton '05, Daniel M. Kane '07, and Yevgeny K. Zaytman '05. Team placement in the competition is based on the ranks of the team members' scores. Barton and Kane were among the top five highest ranking individuals, who are named Putnam Fellows.

The six hour, twelve problem exam takes place the first Saturday of each December, and is open to any full-time undergraduate student in the United States and Canada. Harvard University, Duke University, California Institute of Technology, and Harvey Mudd College round out the top five teams.

Professors select team

Rogers and Stanley have selected the Putnam team for many years. "I'd been involved with it for the last fifteen years," Rogers said. The first approximation, he said, is "to take the three people who scored the highest the previous year," but this is not the only criterion.

The professors teach a freshman problem solving seminar

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Students Seek Stress Relief Over Break

By Tongyan Lin
and Jenny Zhang
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

There is a palpable feeling of the tension oozing out of campus today. You can see the weight lifted from students' backs, their shoulders rising from a tired slouch to face the prospect of a few days full of fun instead of stress.

Many will be going home, like Sharon B. Cohen '04, and just relaxing. Ever the MIT student, she plans to "do some work" but will otherwise be occupied by family, friends and some "fun reading."

Students eager for sunshine

Following far too many surprise days of snow this month, warm destinations are unsurprisingly popular among those students leaving. Shubhangi Saraf '07 will be "enjoying the warm weather" while she visits a friend at Caltech.

In addition, various sports teams will be training or playing together over spring break in warmer areas. Mike J. Harvey '04 is going to California with the lacrosse team. "I'll be more excited once I get done with this problem set," he said, indi-

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FRANK DABEK—THE TECH

SPARE A BILLION? — Hackers commented on MIT's falling endowment by erecting a giant change cup in Killian Court last week. While the endowments of many of MIT's peer schools have risen in the past year, the Institute's endowment lost value.

Guth Wins Cosmology Prize For Inflationary Universe

By Brian Loux
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Weisskopf Professor of Physics Alan Guth has won the 2004 Cosmology Prize of the Peter Gruber Foundation for his role in refining the theories on cosmic inflation. Guth will share the award, which includes a \$200,000 unrestricted grant, with Andre Linde, a professor of physics at Stanford University.

"We are extremely pleased to honor the work of Professors Guth and Linde and to pay tribute to the theory of cosmic inflation," Gruber said in a press release. "Their original ideas over more than 20 years have profoundly changed the field of cosmology."

The Peter Gruber Foundation began presenting "awards recognizing human discoveries and contributions that effect fundamental shifts in human knowledge and culture," according to the foundation's web site. The U.S. Virgin Islands-based foundation issues five awards annually in the categories of cosmology, genetics, women's rights, justice, and neuroscience.

Award honors 23-year old theory

Guth first proposed the idea of cosmic inflation in 1981 in his paper "The Inflationary Universe:

A Possible Solution to the Horizon and Flatness Problems." The theory posits a very small but extremely dense bit of matter that entered a rare state causing its gravitational field to be reversed. In essence, instead of gravity pulling objects together, this bit of matter pushed outward and created inflation. Fluctuations in the matter's initial energy densities, once it had expanded, laid the groundwork for large cosmic structures such as galaxies to evolve.

While inflationary theories had already been postulated as early as the 1970s, Guth's paper not only formalized them, but addressed how inflationary theory solved the flatness problem (why the universe can expand without collapsing under its own gravitational pull or spreading its matter thinner and thinner), and the horizon problem (why cosmic background radiation is of almost equal density throughout the entirety of space). It would later be Linde, who shares in this year's award, who noted specific problems with Guth's original inflationary model and would go on to correct them.

The award will be officially presented to the two winners at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. on June 4.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

"Exploding Dog" comic creator Adam Culbert (pseudonym Sam Brown) draws an image for a fan Thursday night after part three of LSC's series on web comics. Also featured at Thursday's lecture were Steven L. Cloud of "Boy on a Stick and Slither," and Richard Stevens of "Diesel Sweeties."

Comics

OPINION

Daniel Barclay compares the European and American responses to acts of terrorism.

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The Tech will not publish next week during Spring Break. Have a good vacation!



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WORLD & NATION

Annan To Send U.N. Team To Iraq

THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday night that he was sending a U.N. team to Iraq “as soon as practicable” to assist in the transfer of power scheduled for June 30.

Letters from the U.S.-appointed Iraqi Governing Council and the U.S.-administered Coalition Provisional Authority requesting that the United Nations to return to Iraq arrived Thursday morning, and Annan said he would be sending a positive response back overnight.

The letter from the head of provisional authority, L. Paul Bremer, asked that Annan send electoral experts to Iraq next week. The letter from the governing council, several of whose members have in recent days complained about the U.N. role in Iraq, said only that the team should arrive “as soon as possible.”

Annan said the team would be headed by Lakhdar Brahimi, his special envoy to Iraq. Brahimi, 70, Annan’s representative in Afghanistan for the past two years, led a mission to Baghdad last month that set the stage for U.N. involvement in helping shape the interim government to take over.

Shell Masks Details Of Cuts In Nigerian Oil

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group has kept secret important details of its sharp reduction in oil and gas reserves, particularly in Nigeria, for fear of damaging its business relationship with the government there and the Nigerians’ desire to produce more oil, internal company documents show.

While Shell has acknowledged that the biggest adjustments in reserves include those in Nigeria, it continues to conceal the extent of its problems there. But confidential documents from late last year show Shell concluded that more than 1.5 billion barrels, or 60 percent of its Nigerian reserves, did not meet accounting standards for “proven reserves.”

Shell disclosed two months ago that it had overstated its oil and gas reserves by 20 percent, which is equivalent to 3.9 billion barrels of crude oil. On Thursday, it pared its reserves by the equivalent of 250 million barrels more and postponed the publication of its 2003 annual report for two months to complete a review of its oil and gas assets.

Company executives are acutely aware of the potentially explosive political effect of their cutting the estimates of Nigerian reserves. A report dated Dec. 8, 2003, and prepared for senior executives by Walter van de Vijver, then the top official for exploration and production, recommended that the revised Nigerian reserves remain “confidential in view of host country sensitivities.”

North Carolina Asks EPA To Act Against 13 Polluting States

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

In a move that opens a new front in the clean air wars, North Carolina has petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to crack down on pollution that it says is seeping across its borders from power plants in 13 other states.

If the petition succeeds, states as far away as Michigan would have to cut power plant pollution by more than 50 percent, while states closer to North Carolina would face reductions of 70 percent to 80 percent.

“We believe we have done as much as we could in informal negotiations with other states,” said Roy Cooper, the North Carolina attorney general. “I believe it’s up to the states to move forward to clean our air. I don’t believe we can depend on Washington. We have to do it ourselves.”

Pakistan Possibly Closing In On Al-Qaida’s No. 2 Leader

By David Rohde

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Pakistani military and intelligence officials said Thursday night that they believed they had surrounded al-Qaida’s number two leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, in a small cluster of villages near the border with Afghanistan.

The military officials said 7,000 regular army and paramilitary troops, backed by jets, helicopters and artillery, were in the area.

Stiff fighting between those forces and militants continued early Friday local time, the officials said. They said would not try to enter the area until daybreak. They also said jets and helicopters might bomb the area.

There was no outside corroboration of the presence of al-Zawahri, whose whereabouts have been uncertain for more than two years. But the military and intelligence officials said two factors led them to believe the militants were defending him: First, they said, ferocious resistance to a military raid that began on Tuesday had prompted the deadliest fighting in the area in two years, suggesting the presence of a top Qaida leader. Second, they said,

they had received reports for months that al-Zawahri was in the area, South Waziristan.

There were no reports that Osama bin Laden was in the area, the officials said.

The Pakistani government was cautious about the reports that its forces might have cornered al-Zawahri.

On Thursday evening, Pakistan’s president, Pervez Musharraf, said in an interview with CNN that a “high-value target” had “very likely” been surrounded in South Waziristan, and that the fierce resistance led him to believe it was a senior Qaida leader. “Who, I don’t know,” he said.

The capture or killing of al-Zawahri would be a crippling blow to al-Qaida. An Egyptian-born surgeon, he is believed to have planned some of al-Qaida’s major attacks, including those in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Al-Zawahri is believed to be bin Laden’s closest aide and his personal physician. Last fall, audiotapes of a man purporting to be al-Zawahri urged Pakistanis to overthrow Musharraf in retaliation for cooperating with the American-led war on terrorism. In December, Musharraf narrowly survived two assassination attempts.

The raid that began on Tuesday involved 300 Pakistani paramilitary troops, known as scouts, who were sent to the village of Kaloosha in Azam Warsak. A senior Pakistani intelligence official said the scouts were searching not for al-Zawahri but for 25 foreign militants believed to be living in a large mud-brick compound, sheltered by three Pakistanis: Nek Muhammad, Haji Sharif and his brother Noor Islam.

As the Pakistani forces surrounded the compound at 6:30 a.m., a young man leaving on a motorcycle spotted the government troops and sped back inside, government officials said. Minutes later, a pickup truck roared out, just as the scouts suddenly found themselves under fire from militants who had come up from behind.

The fleeing pickup broke through the government cordon but then smashed into a nearby building, the officials said. Seven men jumped out and fled. Blood was found inside the vehicle, suggesting one of the seven might have been wounded.

An intelligence official said that the wounded man might have been al-Zawahri.

NATO To Send Reinforcements To Kosovo After New Attacks

By Nicholas Wood

THE NEW YORK TIMES

PRISTINA, KOSOVO

NATO ordered reinforcements to Kosovo on Thursday as peacekeepers struggled to stem a wave of ethnic violence across the province, in southern Serbia.

The additional 1,000 troops, which will bring the overall NATO force to 19,000, began arriving Thursday evening, at the end of a second day of violence between ethnic Albanians and Serbs in which at least 31 people have been killed and hundreds injured, according to U.N. officials. Most of the dead were ethnic Serbs.

Security forces appeared at a loss as to how to reassert their control over the predominantly Albanian province as crowds attacked Serbian neighborhoods for a second night.

Throughout the day, scores of Serbian houses were set on fire, and according to a spokesman for the Serbian Orthodox Church, at least 20 churches were burned.

In one of the most serious incidents on Thursday, Swedish soldiers opened fire when gunmen emerged from a large group of Albanian protesters near the ethnically mixed village of Caglavica, south of Pristina, the provincial capital. The demonstrators had been trying force their way through a barricade set up to protect Serbs’ houses.

The shooting appeared to reflect a toughening of the peacekeepers’ response to the violence.

Earlier in the day, the German commander of the force, Gen. Holdger Kammerhoff, announced at a news conference that “proportionate force” would be used to ensure the troops’ safety.

Many Serbian leaders voiced outrage that the United Nations seems unable to protect Serbs, who make up just under 10 percent of the population. But local leaders also noted that some Albanians had gone out of their way to save Serbian neighbors from attack.

The clashes appeared to have begun as a spontaneous response to the drowning of two Albanian children in Mitrovica. Albanians blamed the deaths on Serbs.

WEATHER

Spring is NOT in the Air

By Cegeon J. Chan

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Alas, spring break is here! But, if you're looking for sunny warm weather, you need to start heading southward. For the most part, anywhere else in the United States, sunshine is expected. But not here — a stubborn cool, cloudy air mass that has given us light snow showers over the last 48 hours will remain in the northeast through the end of today.

That is a fitting end to the last official day of winter. However, starting Saturday, at 1:49 a.m., spring will officially begin. Although immediate spring-like temperatures are not in the forecast, temperatures will be about five to ten degrees warmer than this past week.

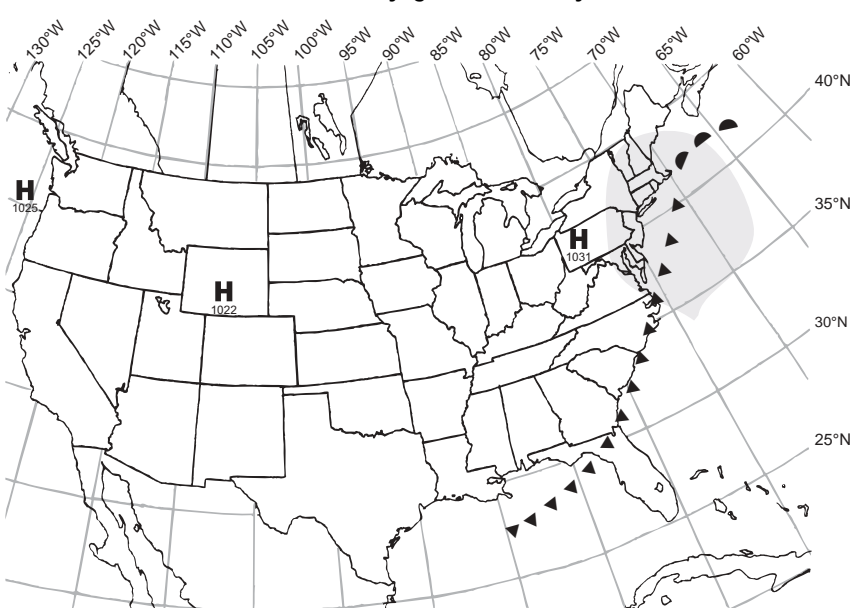
For the lucky souls heading to popular spring break destinations, here's the forecast and the high temperatures for this upcoming weekend:

















Cancun, Mexico: Partly cloudy, 86°F (30°C)
Panama City, Florida: Mostly sunny, 77°F (25°C)
South Padre Island, Texas: Mostly sunny, 78°F (26°C)
New Orleans, Louisiana: Sunny, 81°F (27°C)
San Diego, California: Sunny, 70°F (21°C)

For the rest of us, the forecast for Boston:

Today: Flurries ending by the afternoon. Highs in the lower 30s°F (1°C)
Tonight: Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 20s°F (-4°C)
Tomorrow: Mostly Sunny. Highs in the mid 40s°F (7°C)
Tomorrow Night: Mix of rain and snow. Lows around 32°F (0°C)
Sunday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 40s°F (9°C)
Monday: Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 40s°F (7°C)

Situation for Noon Eastern Daylight Time, Friday, March 19, 2004



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
H High Pressure	 Trough	<div>Snow</div> 	<div>Rain</div> 	 Fog
L Low Pressure	 Warm Front	<div>Light</div> 		 Thunderstorm
 Hurricane	 Cold Front	<div>Moderate</div> 		 Haze
	 Stationary Front	<div>Heavy</div> 		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and <i>The Tech</i>

Scalia Does Not See Case With Cheney As Cause For Recusal

By Michael Janofsky
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Invoking history, law and the upper social strata of Washington, Justice Antonin Scalia said on Thursday he would not remove himself from a case before the Supreme Court involving his good friend Vice President Dick Cheney.

In a 21-page memorandum, a rare public explanation and rarer still for describing what it means to have friends in the highest of places, Scalia said it was not improper that he hunted ducks in Louisiana with Cheney in December, just three weeks after the court agreed to consider the case.

Scalia not only justified his participation in the case, he disclosed new

details of the trip — “I never hunted in the same blind with the vice president,” he wrote.

He also recounted other cases in which presidents and justices socialized as if friendship were far more important than any concerns about appearance. Citing historical accounts, he wrote of a time when Justice Harlan F. Stone “tossed around a medicine ball with members of the Hoover administration mornings outside the White House,” and when Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson “played poker with President Truman.” And who could forget those days when Justice John Marshall Harlan and his wife sang hymns at the White House with President Rutherford B. Hayes or when Justice

Byron R. White skied in Colorado with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy?

In a more contemporary glimpse into the coziness of Washington’s elite, Scalia wrote, “A rule that required Members of this Court to remove themselves from cases in which the official actions of friends were at issue would be utterly disabling.” Many justices, he said, were appointed to the court “precisely because” they were friends with the president or other senior officials.

Scalia argued forcefully in his memorandum that friendship is only a basis for recusal “where the personal fortune or the personal freedom of the friend is at issue,” not a friend’s actions on behalf of government.

Microsoft Faces Antitrust Ruling After Negotiations with EU Fail

By Paul Meller and John Markoff
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BRUSSELS

Settlement talks between Microsoft and European regulators collapsed on Thursday, exposing the company to an antitrust ruling that could limit it in one of the largest and richest markets in the world.

The end of the talks followed two days of meetings between Microsoft’s chief executive, Steven A. Ballmer, and the European Union’s antitrust chief, Mario Monti. A formal ruling is not expected until Wednesday, but Monti unexpectedly appeared at the noon briefing on Thursday at the European Commission to announce:

“A settlement on the Microsoft case has not been possible.”

The 5-year-old European case accusing Microsoft of abusing its global dominance in operating software — in particular, its bundling of its Media Player into Windows — has been the last major legal challenge dogging the company since the landmark settlement of the Justice Department’s antitrust lawsuit in 2001.

The case also contended that Microsoft unfairly withheld technical information from competitors, making it difficult for them to create software for business servers that works well with Windows.

A ruling against the company, if held up in court, could mean a fine

of as much as \$3 billion against Microsoft. More importantly, it could force the company to make fundamental changes in the way it sells software in the European Union, the world’s largest trading bloc. And the ruling could become a precedent for future antitrust litigation against the company.

Microsoft said it would appeal such a ruling in the European courts and file a motion to halt the imposition of sanctions while an appeal proceeds. The appeal process itself could take four to five years, unless the two sides choose to settle later. Both regulators and the company said on Thursday that they had made significant strides toward a settlement before negotiations broke down.

In Heat Of Campaign, McCain Asserts His Independent Streak

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

From television advertisements to vice presidential oratory, the Republican attack against Sen. John Kerry this week has been sharp, unsparing and unified: The Democratic candidate is “wrong on defense.” On Thursday, one Republican senator’s response was just as sharp and unsparing, but much less unified: “No, I do not believe that he is, quote, weak on defense.”

What kind of Republican would say that? The John McCain kind, of course.

Last week, McCain’s polite but impolitic admission that he would “entertain” an offer to be Kerry’s running mate provided a good day’s entertainment for the capital’s chattering classes (until he ruled it out).

Now, his defense of Kerry, a friend and fellow Vietnam veteran, shows once again how McCain’s incorrigible independent streak and ill-disguised distance from President Bush make him one of Washington’s most unpredictable — and unavoidable — men.

“Apparently, you can’t be friends anymore with somebody who is of a different party,” McCain said in a telephone interview from Arizona this week. “I choose my friends on whether they’re entertaining, they’re interesting to be around, and whether they’re good and decent people. Now, with this polarization that’s going on, where both parties are running to their base, that kind of behavior is nearly unacceptable.”

Georgian President Wins Concession; Ends Blockade

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TBILISI, GEORGIA

President Mikhail Saakashvili said Thursday that he had won important concessions from the leader of the renegade province of Adzharia and would lift a four-day-old economic blockade.

“The sanctions will be lifted from midnight tonight because we have resolved all the issues which led to this misunderstanding between the local administration and the Georgian government,” he said after meeting with the leader, Aslan Abashidze, in the provincial capital, Batumi.

“I want to underline that there is no conflict with Adzharia, and such a conflict cannot be,” Saakashvili said.

The deal defuses a crisis that was touched off Sunday when armed men supporting Abashidze refused to allow the president to enter Adzharia.

Saakashvili placed Georgian troops on alert. Abashidze declared a state of emergency in his fiefdom and sent armed men into the streets.

The standoff threatened to have international repercussions as officials from Russia, which has a military base in Adzharia, expressed support for Abashidze.

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Letters To The Editor

Dissenting Opinions

Like Kevin J. DiGenova ["Separation of Powers," March 16] I have read the dissenting opinion in *Goodridge v. Department of Public Health*. I have also read the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) and the California Supreme Court's decision in *Perez v. Sharp* (1948). The latter notes that "the right to marry is the right to join in marriage with the person of one's choice."

Just as the antimiscegenation laws that those cases struck down didn't prevent anyone from marrying — only from marrying someone of another race — limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples doesn't prevent sham marriages, it simply prevents some people from marrying the person of their choice.

In Seattle, openly gay sex columnist Dan Savage and his lesbian friend, Amy Jennings, obtained a marriage license; all he needed, as he put it, was "a woman I don't love and my \$54." This marriage, were it to take place, would be perfectly legal, yet it would not allow Savage the right to marry the person of his choice.

That, put simply, is the equal protection violation that the Supreme Judicial Court was addressing in *Goodridge*. That is the "person being denied a right that another person is granted," to quote Mr. DiGenova.

Christopher K. Davis
MIT/Broad Institute

Protectionism, Not Racism

Though I realize there was just recently a letter to the editor pleading those submitting

their opinions not to consult a dictionary ["Dictionary Duds," March 9], I was tempted to direct Mr. Nesmith to one for his article on "racism" in the outsourcing debate ["Give Me Back My Job, Foreigner," March 16]. Nesmith should realize that racism involves discriminating against people based on race, not their country. True, there are many Mexicans in Mexico, so I certainly could see where confusion might arise, but the truth is that choosing not to give a Mexican a job in order to keep American money in America's economy is protectionist, not racist.

On the off chance that there's still some lack of clarity in the argument, it should be pointed out that there are, for example, former Americans living in India taking advantage of the relatively high wages in the tech industry when compared to the cost of living there. Opponents of job outsourcing would rather an immigrant Indian in the U.S. take the job than the white immigrant in India; the money in the latter case still leaves our country, only to benefit the outsourcing corporation and not those (numerous) unemployed workers in our own country.

How one could find racism in all of this is both puzzling and telling of Mr. Nesmith's misunderstanding of the situation. And perhaps a couple semantic subtleties.

Aston R. Motes '07

The Benefits of Offshoring

Mr. Nesmith ["Give Me Back My Job,

Foreigner," March 16] is right that offshoring should not be banned, but his justifications are questionable. He compares protectionist trade policies to Jim Crow laws and other types of discrimination without acknowledging a key fact; a black man in Mississippi is an American who deserves the full protection of the American government. Our legislators are under no similar obligation to strive for economic equality across countries; call it nationalism or jingoism if you want, but our government's first responsibility is to our own quality of life.

Yet offshoring does economically benefit the American people, although recent political posturing indicates otherwise. Hal Varian's March 11 column in the *New York Times* ["What Goes Abroad Usually Comes Back, With Benefits"], also available on his personal Web site, explains that if dollars that go abroad don't come back in the form of purchases of American goods, we have in effect exchanged green paper for shoes and programming. Of course these dollars do come back, but not to the people who were laid off; American agricultural exports have been growing for the past several years. While the unemployed manufacturing workers may have trouble finding new jobs, offshoring is definitely a productivity boost for the American economy as a whole.

I hope that our government doesn't legislate away offshoring for something as short-term as a presidential election. But I hope we do it for the right reasons, instead of irresponsibly throwing around charged words like "racism."

Amal K. Dorai '04

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Europe’s Sept. 11

Daniel Barclay

Two and a half years after terrorists attacked the United States, another attack occurred in Spain last week. Terrorists of initially unknown identity brutally killed 200 innocent people in Madrid, in what many called “Europe’s Sept. 11.”

There’s always some peril in making sweeping analogies such as this due to confounding variables — after all, September 11 was far more deadly, the Spanish government was credibly accused of misleading the public in a way that the American government was not, Spanish citizens had significant prior exposure to domestic terrorism, Spain is only one part of Europe, and so on. However, at the risk of symbolic overgeneralization, a comparison of the two cases seems apt.

First, the similarities. Both attacks were met by an outpouring of grief, outrage, and anger. Each populace felt unconditional hostility toward the terrorists and sympathy toward their victims. This was all well and good, demonstrating that the spectrum of human emotions transcends nationalities. It also showed that these emotions were sufficiently strong to be sustained even when they had no known perpetrator to direct themselves against — for in each case, there was initial public uncertainty as to whether the terrorists were domestic (ETA, Oklahoma City types) or international (al-Qaeda).

Here is where the similarities end. In the days following Sept. 11, the confirmation that the terrorist perpetrators were international heightened Americans’ resolve to bring them to justice. No outsiders could bring America to its knees — rather, there was a general determination that the attacks would make the country stronger, not weaker. With a united front, the United States expanded its presence abroad, eliminating the terrorists’ base in Afghanistan and heightening law enforcement operations, vowing never to let such a tragedy happen again.

The Spanish case played out quite differently. The discovery that international terrorists were responsible for the bombings also elicited public anger, but of a different kind — anger at the peoples’ own government for aggressively confronting them, thus making Spain a “target.” In reaction, voters ousted the ruling Popular Party in favor of the opposition Socialists, a stunning ten-point swing in a matter of days. The message was clear: continue to maintain a hard line against domestic terrorism, but on international matters take a less confrontational approach. Spain was to keep a lower profile in fighting terrorism due to the attacks.

The implications of this divergence are grim, but not particularly new. They stem in large part from the very term “Europe’s Sept. 11,” as if the original Sept. 11 were insufficient to persuade much of Europe that the terrorist threat was serious. This is of course untrue. European nations, including Spain, have been steadfast in fighting terrorism, and no one should suggest otherwise. However, the intensity of this commitment has not matched that of the United States — there are lingering, perhaps subconscious concerns that acting with too much gusto might stir up resentment, create more terrorism, or attract unwanted attention. It was these concerns at work this past week.

Prior to last week’s attacks, many had suggested that this discrepancy in commitment was due to a discrepancy in threat perception. Terrorists had attacked the United States, not Europe, so didn’t it stand to reason that Europe had less of an emotional stake in fighting terrorism? Fallout from the recent terrorism in Spain conclusively demonstrated that such reasoning is chimerical. Europe is not relatively quiescent about terrorists because they attacked a different locale — for when they did get around to attacking Europe, the same mindset persisted. While the United States generally adopted a negative feedback mechanism, such that an increased terrorist threat increased citizens’ corresponding resolve and vice-versa, Europe generally followed the path of a positive feedback mechanism, where an increased threat of international terrorism led to less vigilance. The transatlantic divide was not temporary, but permanent.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 were truly epochal, upending existing attitudes and setting the terms of international relations for the next decade. The recent attacks in Spain, while similarly tragic, carry no such greater significance. They will become a footnote to history. For the causes of fighting terrorism, liberalizing the Middle East, and upholding transatlantic relations, that too is a tragedy.

Long Election Season, More True

Chen Zhao

With the primary season essentially over in March and eight long months until the general election, we are faced with the prospect of an unusually long, drawn-out fight between Senator Kerry and President Bush. This interesting scenario has a few implications.

With eight months of mudslinging ahead, huge, unprecedented amounts of money will be spent in this general election. President Bush, of course, has the decided advantage in this area, with a war chest totaling more than \$150 million and much of it required to be spent before the Republican National Convention late in the summer. Senator Kerry has about one-tenth of that sum, but Senator Edwards and Representative Gephardt are already allowing him access to their main contributors. Kerry plans to raise \$80 million by July. So much money being thrown about by both campaigns means that we, and especially those in key battleground states, will be bombarded like never before with TV ads, radio ads, recorded phone calls from the candidates and other party members, glossy mailings, etc.

More importantly, though, eight months means plenty of time to adequately debate the real issues. All that aforementioned money could not be wasted on the same shallow ads with the same carefully staged images and the same uninspired, vague tag lines, such as “Steady leadership in times of change” or “A new direction for America.” Instead, that money could be used to project

Just a few weeks into what many are predicting to be one of the most bitterly fought elections in history, the mudslinging is already stealing the scene from the more important issues.

real messages and real plans for the future of this country.

Just a few weeks into what many are predicting to be one of the most bitterly fought elections in history, the mudslinging is already stealing the scene from the more important issues.

George W. Bush has aired numerous ads and given many speeches labeling John Kerry as indecisive and a flip-flopper. In a speech to the Republican Governor’s Association, Bush said that the Democratic candidates are “an interesting group with diverse opinions — for tax cuts and against them; for [the North American Free Trade Agreement] and against NAFTA; for the Patriot Act and against the Patriot Act; in favor of liberating Iraq and opposed to it. And that’s just one senator from Massachusetts.”

John Kerry is not just lying back and taking this abuse. He actually started the airing of negative, attack ads way back during the primary season. His ads accuse Bush of leading America in the wrong direction and attack everything from Bush’s economic policy to the invasion of Iraq. And, of course, recently, Kerry’s offhand remark to some union workers (presumably when he did not know that his microphone was still on) that “these guys are the most crooked, you know, lying group of people I’ve ever seen,” referring to the Republican Party, has incited a torrent of retorts from the Bush camp.

So, thanks to George W. Bush, we know that John Kerry often has difficulty making up his mind or maybe has made up his mind to

Losing Technological Restraint

Andrew C. Thomas

“I’ll tell you the problem with the scientific power that you’re using here: it didn’t require any discipline to attain it.” — Michael Crichton

I didn’t need “Jurassic Park” to come to the realization that scientific progress is forged by hard work, and abused by those who only see quick gains from its use. After all, I could just have easily been watching another of my favorite movies, “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade,” where the diligent, decades-long work of the title character’s father was hijacked by a stereotypical Nazi unit financed by a rich man, as was the faith and brainpower of Dr. Jones himself abused by his competitors as he neared the Holy Grail, even though Indy himself, following his father’s research, did not respect the Grail’s apparent power.

But even ignoring these worlds of fantasy overseen by Steven Spielberg, are we not now living in a world where discipline as acquired through hard work is just as abused?

We are living in an era where violent action is as easy to carry out as pushing a button, from as large an act to launching a missile strike to as small as changing a television channel in order to see the bodies in the aftermath.

In our quest for discipline in this world, we at MIT live in great privilege, as we indulge ourselves in research for, among other things, the advancement of science for the benefit of mankind. Now, it’s no coincidence that the same struggle can, in future years, put vast amounts of food on the table by showing an

employer a nice piece of paper on the wall with Chuck Vest’s name on it. For the most part, with mild instances of cheating aside, we earned what we’ll walk with after four or more years of toil and pain.

But the discipline we earn has its limits; inevitably it’s only as powerful as the force of will to avoid desperation, provoked by insecurity. And we’re starting to see the effects of that desperation in the advancement of the Internet.

Once, the pursuit of knowledge was a genuinely difficult task, a quest that taxed the soul and the pocketbook equally. Any who were able to learn to read and write in the past had a decisive advantage. We’ve made incredible improvements even in the last 200 years to bring literacy to the majority of the population. Now that literacy, in terms of the use of modern tools like e-mail, is (in the words of the fictional yet fascinating Ian Malcolm) being wielded like a kid who’s found his dad’s gun; as a whole, it’s insufficient to stop a small fraction of the uninformed population from clicking on unknown attachments and jackknifing the tractor-trailers of the information highway.

The Internet, as a tool, was borne out of a massive, decades long military research effort. Services like Google helped reduce the expansive clutter into an incredible information gathering tool. Yet there are still abusers of the technology — young hotshots who program Trojan horses as a means of competition against each other in the arena of the Internet and use unsuspecting surfers as their weapons and shields.

The idea of the Internet driver’s license has been tossed around recently, largely by

just say one thing to one group of people and the opposite to another. And, courtesy of John Kerry, we know that Republicans are crooked liars. What I want to know is why. I want the candidates to explain to the country how these statements can be validated. They have eight entire months to explain to the voting public why John Kerry’s record can be called into question and why Republicans are crooked. Or maybe, they could tell us why John Kerry actually does have convictions despite his contradictory statements or why Republicans have not been deceiving the public for who knows how long.

The candidates have eight months to bring depth to their campaigns, eight months to explain the issues. John Kerry’s campaign can stop relying on solely attacking Bush and start letting us know what he would do differently and what his plans are if he is elected. George Bush’s campaign can stop relying on the emotional Sept. 11 attacks to make people want to reelect him and start explaining how, if given four more years, he will do better than he has in the last four.

All the trite lines and artificial images, as well as the negativity, that is dominating this campaign season so far turns people off from politics. People get tired of the same tag lines and attacks. This, in turn, leads to the incredibly low voter turnout that we suffer from in this country. In fact, we have the lowest voter turnout in the world. For a country that promotes democracy around the world — indeed, according to Bush, we invaded Iraq not because of the weapons of mass destruction (at least, not anymore), but to bring democracy to an oppressed people — this record is shameful. Call me naïve, but I believe that if the candidates were to really talk in detail about how they plan to solve the problems that people face everyday, then more of those people would actually go to the polls on Election Day.


disgruntled computer elitists who are, thanks to the globalization of the technology, inexorably tied to the inexperienced user. I think it’s a lousy idea — if there’s anything I’ve learned from kung fu movies, people are going to abuse systems no matter what level of responsibility is necessary for the attainment of their skills. Heck, we complain just as much about speed demons on the roads as we do about old people doing 30 on the highway. Besides, most people learn to behave only when they’re being watched continually, a solution too terrifying to comprehend.

It’s not like that situation is far away. While it was the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) who developed the use of the Internet, it’s other governmental descendants like the Defense Department’s DARPA that are unveiling the weaknesses of our integrated society. While I’m in favor of programs like Terrorist Information Awareness as a way to gather reasonable types of information, there’s every possibility that this power could be hijacked and turned against us because we didn’t truly respect the power the Internet gave us as individuals.


Inevitably, we make progress as a species through hard, repeated experience, and society is still learning to deal with the Internet. Software designers lost their discipline in the 1990s when limits on memory and hard drive capacity escalated, and a previously crucial need to scrutinize code for efficiency and smooth operation became insignificant compared to the profit motive. These weaknesses, which once had minimal danger, are now becoming vulnerabilities. Can we afford to continue to not ask the big questions in a search for the proper uses of this technology?

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FEATURES

How to Eat Like an Asian

Sushi: Un-raw

By Mark Liao
FEATURES COLUMNIST

Nothing irks me more than crappy sushi. Excluding that numbnut that sat in front of me in 14.01 who would play (literally play) with his hair. You know who I'm talking about; he pisses you off, too. He just sits there folding a clump of his hair with his right hand, over and over, folding and unfolding with no particular pattern. For god sakes, you're a grown man twirling your hair around like a second-grade school girl.

Ah, but I digress. In any case here are the initial things you need to look for in a good sushi bar.

First and foremost, *no women behind the sushi bar*. I know I sound prick, but it's one of those weird Asian superstitions. Apparently, women naturally have more body heat than men, thus, female handling of raw fish would not be good. Now don't come and kick me in the junk, I just report the stuff.

Next comes wasabi, that dangerously spicy lump of green playdough made famous by the

Budwiser "Wazzup" guys. Most of the stuff you find these days are made from powders or squeezed out of tubes, so if you actually see someone finely grating an ugly-looking root behind the bar, major kudos to them. If you absolutely hate wasabi but want to do something about it, I highly suggest you start by purchasing a pack of roasted wasabi green peas. After four or five bags, you'll see the light.

Now the sushi I'm going to be talking about is *nigiri* sushi. Sitting at a sushi bar and ordering California rolls is like going to Pour House on a Saturday and ordering a chicken sandwich.

Nigiri refers to sushi consisting of a slice of raw fish atop a carefully formed log of rice. The better sushi bars will serve you pieces of nigiri where there's more fish than rice. As usual, we'll start you off with baby steps, few items in this article are raw. Next week we'll get into the more hardcore of

sushi, but for now, think of this as your guide on how to convince that debonair corn de-tas-seler from Bloomington, Illinois to go to sushi with you.

Tamago — This sushi is as tame as the Snuggle bear on the box of my fabric softener. It's essentially a piece of egg on a bed of rice bound by a piece of seaweed. They usually add some sugar to the egg which matches nicely with the vinegar in the rice.

And don't let the tiny piece of seaweed scare you off. Every fifth grader knows they add seaweed to ice cream and stuff. Besides, you and I both know that you've eaten much grosser green things in your life, e.g. **b o o g e r s**. Yeah, where you at now boogerface?

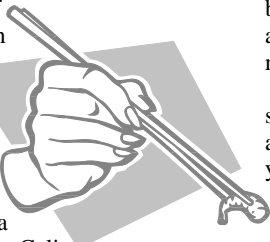
Inari — Another extremely tame type of sushi. Basically it's a fried pouch of tofu filled with rice. See, nothing to be afraid of, well, except if it's being served by a sketchy political science grad student, but that story is for another day.

Tobiko — I'm guessing I'm going to lose about half of you right here... pansies. Tobiko is flying fish roe. Eh, the French call it caviar and then its refined but you call it roe and white people scatter. So what you'll be getting is a lump of rice wrapped in seaweed. On top you'll see a mound of tiny orange spheres. That's the roe. The tiny eggs are crunchy and pop in your mouth. You'll love it.

Ebi — Ebi is simply a de-shelled piece of butterflied shrimp on a lump of rice. If you like shrimp, you'll like this — nothing to be afraid of. But if you wanna go hardcore, order ama ebi. You'll get a raw piece of shrimp that is sweet. It doesn't do much for me, but the fried shrimp head that they should give you on the side looks so cool and tastes even better.

Unagi — The topic of an entire episode of "Friends," unagi is freshwater eel. The eel is grilled with a teriyaki-like sauce. Eel is nothing more than a skinny fish, people. If you can handle canned tuna, you can handle eel.

I'll start talking a bit more about *real* sushi after Spring Break.



It May Not Be Right, But is it Even Wrong?

The Boardwasher and "Blown Away"

By Dan Scolnic
FEATURES COLUMNIST

I know. "Hey, aren't you the boardwasher?" isn't exactly the best pick-up line in the world. It's not the worst either, but I just couldn't think of anything better to say. I was standing in front of a girl for whom I show up early to class to see, so I had to say something. I wanted to say that I'm her biggest fan, but that's probably not the case.

There are guys who sit in the front row and give running commentary on her board washing. It may not be pretty, but guys do that here.

I want to give another example of guys at MIT. There is a movie "Blown Away" starring Jeff Bridges and Tommy Lee Jones. The whole movie takes place in Boston and Jeff Bridges is the expert in the city's bomb squad. In the first scene, Jeff Bridges is called out of his son's birthday party because there is a bomb at MIT. The bomb is in the computer lab, which, like most computer labs at MIT, is one computer and many desks.

When he gets there, he sees this girl typing over and over again that she loves her boyfriend. We learn that the boyfriend is the bomber, and the bomb will go off if she stops typing or "when the hard drive runs out of available bytes." Jeff Bridges, at the last second, cuts the correct wire and proceeds to throw up in Killian Court. So what happened to MIT guys? How did we get to be depicted so badly?

The answer is that we are the guys people believe can make bombs. If there was

any college where a boy could somehow figure out how to make a crazy bomb, people would assume it was MIT. They didn't pick Harvard for a reason. It is not that MIT guys are inherently any different than any other guys; it's just that MIT guys are better engineering students.

If you tell an MIT guy about the whole "Blown Away" bomb episode, he'll immediately disregard doing this to his girlfriend as not even worth considering, but then start trying to figure out how they made the bomb. He'll start asking: Do you think they attached levers to the keyboard and if the keys don't go at a certain pattern it will go off? Do you think he put it somewhere inside the hardware so if she stopped then something would turn off and then the bomb would go off? The hard drive will run out of available bytes — what college do you think the writer went to?

The boardwasher, in any class at any school, would have had guys talking about her. It is not a great thing to say about guys, but hey, that's why people call them guys. The only difference is that at MIT, she's washing boards for classes like quantum mechanics.

All guys have girlfriend problems. All guys can get depressed and some of them will do very stupid things, but that MIT guys know how to do very stupid things in very smart ways.

But remember something, it's not just that we can do stupid things in smart ways, but we can do great romantic things in smart ways. No one ever said we couldn't use that same creativity for something else. Just give us the chance and we'll blow you away.



By Ian Ybarra
FEATURES COLUMNIST

My friend Paul carried a gray messenger bag and the weight of the world on his shoulders as he trudged towards his dorm one afternoon last March. Spring break was upon him, and he was a wreck.

He still had to resolve his plans for the next fall, prepare for a concerto competition, and finish his final collegiate golf season. Paul wondered why he had been so relieved in December, when he completed his thesis and decided to earn a master's degree in security studies and work for the CIA. Now, doubting he would be accepted to a single graduate school, he applied for the Navy's Officer Candidate School in a desperate attempt to cover his bets.

You see, one trouble with the question "what's next?" is that even when we decide what we want the answer to be, we're restless until we are certain we can make that answer happen. And there is no milestone that can intensify that restlessness as much as spring break.

Spring break is a breath of fresh air amidst the pollution that is our incessant business. It's often filled with smiles and — if you're not in Boston — sunshine and sand.

But spring break can be like TIME=100 in Super Mario Bros.: the dreadful moment when the music switches from normal to warp speed. Afterward, our hearts beat faster, heads ache more often, and deadlines jump at us like winged turtles. We punish ourselves for New Year's and term resolutions we haven't kept. We worry about not having job offers for summer or fall. Or, like Paul, we stress over graduate school admissions.

To ready ourselves for success and happiness in the remainder of the spring term, we should balance enjoying our vacation with preparing for the season it brings. Here are three suggestions to help you strike the two faces of spring break right between the eyes.

Do some work but not too much

There's nothing worse than playing catch-up after a well-deserved break. Tackle a few problem sets; write a few papers. However,

What's Next?

Spring Break Isn't All Good

don't overdo it. Spending the entire week holed-up in the lab will probably make your solutions two parts procrastination, one part production. Besides, no matter how much you accomplish, MIT will always provide more work for you. Overwork yourself and when classes resume you'll wish you had had more fun.

Have some fun.

Do something that makes you smile. Perhaps that's seeing a beautiful new city or scoping new places in a familiar one. Do something that makes you laugh. Maybe that's watching improv or taking in a T-ball game. Do something that has eluded you for a while. Maybe that's conquering the novel your friend gave you months ago, the one that keeps getting nudged a few spots down your to-do list.

Don't just plan, execute.

Ditch the line "When the break is over, I'm going to network more." Just go meet someone new immediately. If you're on the dead MIT campus, visit a staff or faculty member. She'll welcome an excuse to postpone work as much as you will. If you're at a spring break destination, talk to a stranger. You'll have plenty to discuss. Chances are, she saved up for the trip just like you did. Or, better yet, she's there on a blank check from her parents, who are executives at your favorite company.

Come to think of it, these are good things to do anytime. It figures, since time will render spring break as fleeting and insignificant as any other week. When you get the job offer or grad school acceptance you covet, everything will seem right in your world, regardless of how you felt during and after spring break.

Last year, Paul spent his break fielding questions about his grad school-then-CIA plan while secretly agonizing over the uncertainty of his future. His pain vanished a few weeks later, when he was accepted to American University. For months, Paul basked in the approval and encouragement of his parents, professors, and peers.

Then in December, Paul was so disappointed with his first term in Washington, DC, he left. Now everyone's back to asking what the hell he's doing, but he's more confident than ever. He is going to become a golf pro, something he's wanted to do all his life.



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Positive Sinking

Drinking American Penguins

By Akshay Patil
FEATURES EDITOR

Mr. Sinking,
I can't drink while walking. Whenever I need to take a sip from a bottle, I stop regardless of where I am, regardless of how many people may give me dirty looks from behind in the Infinite, and take my drink stationarily [Editor's Note: not a real word]. But I very readily read while walking, which one of my teachers commented on, saying he never understood people who could do that. Do you have any walking limitations? Sincerely,



— Reluctant Submitter

Dear Mr./Ms. R. Submitter, I too suffer from inability-to-drink-while-walking-osis. While this crippling disease may seriously affect your ability to enjoy life in a variety of ways, remember that there is help.

In particular, I've found a recent medical breakthrough has really helped me come to terms with my inability-to-drink-while-walking-osis; it's called "straws." Maybe you've seen the ad in "People" Magazine? Since discovering straws, I've been able walk and drink with almost unnerving ease. Even better, straws are relatively cheap and covered by many HMOs. Some side effects of straws may include sucking-faces, cut gums, and heroin addiction.

tion. Make sure to ask your doctor if straws are right for you.

Speaking of MIT, drinks, and straws, how have you been holding up following the departure of bubble-tea from Arrow Street Crepes? Seriously, people just won't stop moaning about how they can't get their boba fix these days. Raise tuition? Fine. Change summer housing policies? Fine. Get rid of student center boba? Over my dead body, you heartless SOBs, I'd rather have my eyes scraped out with rusty spoons and raked over hot coals... my precious... we won't let them takes you from us, will we?

Anyway, yeah, my friends all mope about these days, periodically shaking their fists at the sky and screaming "WHYY?" followed by a string of obscenities which I, bound by my oath of communicational decency, cannot reproduce in a family newspaper such as this (hi kids!).

Some people and I were watching an ad for "Joe Millionaire" in Europe, and were wondering what FOX would do when women on every continent were fully aware of the Joe Millionaire secret. We thought they would have to do the show in Antarctica, and call it Joe Pengiun. A bunch of women compete for what they think is a rich short man who wears tuxedos all the time. What do you think of this concept?

Your suggestion, and I mean this from the very bottom of

my vestigial tail, is quite possibly the coolest thing I have ever heard. Why are you even at MIT? Shouldn't you be out making large quantities of cash as a TV executive? If the networks thought Americans liked attractive but zany people hanging around a New York coffeeshop, they'll be blown away by how many will watch babes in Antarctica with penguins.

The best part is that not only would we benefit from the quality entertainment of watching money-grubbing women trying to "get it on" with well-dressed waterfowl, but the show has a guaranteed happy ending! The penguin gets a hot girlfriend and the girl gets a penguin. Man, who could pass that up?

Maybe I'd enter the contest just to try my luck. You really should copyright your idea though, because you never know what sort of spin-offs might follow. "Queer Eye for the Penguin," "Ebert and Penguin" (two wings up!), "American Penguin," or "The OC." TFP — Television For Penguins; it's an insatiable market.

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Be My Suite-heart

By Ruth Miller
OPINION COLUMNIST

We may attend MIT, but we're still college students. We produce enough hormones that they literally ricochet off a wall and we calculate the force of impact. With all the hormoaning and calculating, love/lust can strike any time, any place. Eventually someone's hormones strike a fellow resident and the inevitable happens. That inevitability of inter-floor dating.



Thus the term "floor-cest" is coined, linking this party for two with that famous export of a certain region (cue fiddle music) to illustrate how weirded out the neighbors are.

Floor-cest is the cute first cousin of suite-cest (or wing-cest), which is invariably worse. The smaller the number of people available to be weirded out, the more weirded out they get.

Zero sum residential living.

So why would anyone do this? How could someone forsake their neighbors for their animal urges? The obvious answer is that they don't particularly take the wants of their neighbors into consideration before following their hormonal urges. This isn't exactly intracrine family dating, but the case does stand that it can be incredibly uncomfortable for everyone else.

Let first me qualify the term "dating." Everyone has their own idea of dating, but most can be placed on something I've dubbed the Miller Dating Continuum: ranging

between 'life consuming' and "stealth."

Couple A: Andrew meets Crystal. Andrew begins spending time with Crystal. Andrew begins spending so much time with Crystal that his friends start to think he has changed. Eventually he stays home from an awesome trip to Nassau with his other friends to be with Crystal. Andrew's idea of dating Crystal falls into the "life consuming" portion of our continuum.

Couple B: Jason and Susie are friends. Jason and Susie decide to pursue a more romantic relationship. Their dates are few and far between, and neither of them is fond of public displays of affection. After a few months, mutual friends are surprised to find out Jason and Susie have been dating. This style could be referred to as "stealth."

The key here is balance. Andrew can be happy with Crystal. He can also be happy with his friends though, else he wouldn't have chosen to develop the friendships with them that he has. Jason and Susie's friends are happy for the couple and can accept a reasonable decrease in the amount of time they spend together. Both these styles make the people dating happier, but at a varying level of expense to their other friends.

In the case of floor-cest, the roles of the players we've previously defined as friends apply more strongly to neighbors. Andrew's

friends can get as pissed as they want, but to Andrew's benefit, they don't live with him. Neighbors can't escape any residual weirdness of a relationship.

Floor-cest should be regarded closely by the associated style of dating. Back in high school, when mutual friends started dating each other, it would be weird at first and we'd haze them for it. But if they continued to have their own lives, we'd eventually we'd get used to the idea of them dating. They would either break up so we could haze them some more, or they would stay together and make each other happy.

Strong voices of the "no suite-cest ever" argument often don't take the issues presented by the Miller Dating Continuum into account. If a suite couple leans towards the "life consuming" end, I pity their neighbors who shall know no solace. The suite essentially loses two residents, who now only live as shadows occasionally lurking in the bathroom or public

areas. I am strongly inclined to agree with the case against this sort of dating. If a couple stays near the "stealth" side, their relationship with each other and the rest of the suite doesn't visibly change. The floor isn't inconvenienced, but the couple might not get all they want out of their relationship and this isn't fair to them.

If a couple can compromise and maintain a healthy relationship with each other and the rest of the floor, then why not date? Let's face it — we all have a need for human contact and however noble that form of contact might be, it can make the people involved a lot happier.

I'm not saying conjugal visits during finals week would be appropriate, but we all know what it's like when a good friend of ours starts a new relationship at the center of the dating continuum. They're excited, happy, and easy to get along with. Aren't these good qualities in a suite-mate?



Positions Available Graduate Housing Opportunity

Positions Available for live-in Resident Advisors for MIT's Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups. Applications are due by April 15, 2004, and are available online at: <http://web.mit.edu/slp/fsilgs/ra-application.html>

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Remuneration: All Resident Assistants receive free room and board. In addition, some organizations may include a small stipend. Each Resident Advisor is furnished with a single room in the chapter facility.

Qualifications: A BA or BS and/or graduate enrollment at an accredited institution are required.

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Bethke, Brett	Gerber, Meredith	Loreto, Daniel	Renjifo, Carlos	Stevenson, Martijn
Bonebreak, Christina	Guo, Philip	Mahoney, Maia	Rolish, Michael	Sunter, Kristen
Bradley, Michael	Hager, Elizabeth	Medina, Rafael	Rufin, Justin	Thitimom, Aekkaratt
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DiBiasio, Christopher	Chwan Hai Hsiung	Natsios, Joanna	Schwartz, Emily	Wu, Jia
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March 19,
2004

COMICS

The
Tech

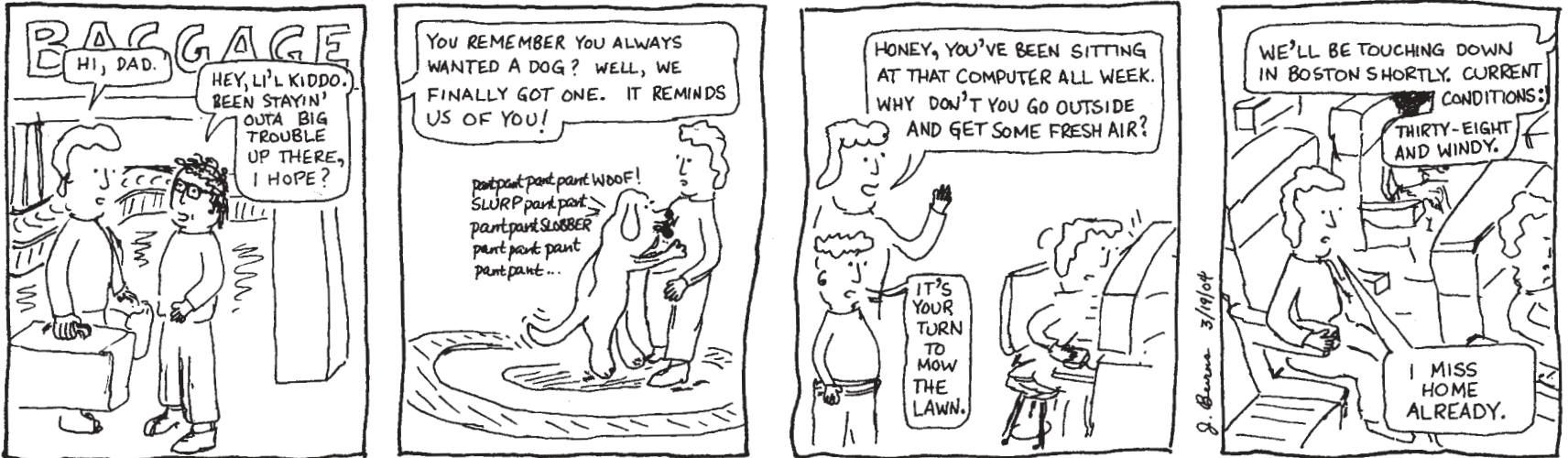
FUN

Page
9

PAGES

Filler Space @HOME

by Jason Burns



Trio

Play Bobby's NAME THAT TUNE, and get your name -here-alum.mit.edu/www/emie

by Emezie Okorafor



Helping the Unfortunate is my calling

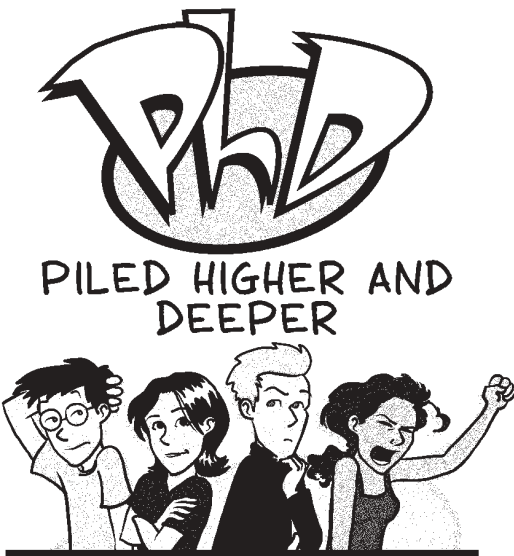
by Brian Loux



Fascist Popsicle Stand

by Saurabh Asthana





FoxTrot

by Bill Amend

Dilbert®

by Scott Adams

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13

- ACROSS

1 TV network

4 Accumulate

9 Type of sword

14 Gradual bend

15 Stray calf

16 Blue shade

17 Culture Club's front man

19 Gymnast Comaneci

20 Singer Falana

21 Bear's lair

22 Displayed cards, as in pinochle

23 Solar event

25 "The Ballad of ___ Jones"

26 Stratified rock

27 Insufficiencies

31 America's uncle

33 Ms. Thurman

34 Japanese wrestling

35 Escort's offer

38 Detroit's lewd rapper

41 Slangy affirmative

42 Knights' addresses

44 Old card game

45 Intention

47 Macaulay Culkin movie

50 Rustler's rope

54 Religion of the Koran

55 Rabin of Israel

57 In general

59 Writer's tool

60 Carvey or Ivey

61 Clarinetist Shaw

62 Hip-hop rapper Sean Combs

64 Minuscule

65 Integra maker

66 Raw mineral

67 Round dances

68 Pass along

69 Roll of money
- DOWN

1 Steel ropes

2 Decorative pin

3 Partner of Charybdis

4 Fruit beverage

5 Up and down dispositions

6 Concurs

7 Autograph

8 Witness

9 Most rational

10 Flowering shrubs

11 Legendary blues guitarist

12 Canal of song

13 ___ my lips!

18 Devers and Parent

22 Shaken instrument

24 Mountain tip

25 Italian lake

28 Second-largest Great Lake

29 Aussie bird

30 Dunk, as a donut

32 "The Harp Weaver" poet

35 Fire flakes

36 ___ de Janeiro

37 "Kyrie" group

39 Destine to tragedy

40 Celtic attire

43 Provencal verse

46 Miata maker

48 Bowling lanes

49 Real looker

51 Follow in secret

52 ___ Day O'Connor

53 Approved

56 Red beginning?

57 Alg. or trig.

58 Sandwich cookie

59 Brownish purple

62 Golf score

63 Calendar unit

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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67						68					69			

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Events Calendar

Events Calendar appears in each issue of *The Tech* and features events for members of the MIT community. *The Tech* makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of this information, and *The Tech* shall not be held liable for any losses, including, but not limited to, damages resulting from attendance of an event. Contact information for all events is available from the Events Calendar web page.

Visit and add events to Events Calendar online at <http://events.mit.edu>

Friday, March 19

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. – Great American Meat-in. Come to Lobby 10 to partake in the eating of BEEF and find out about how the consumption of BEEF and MEAT can improve the quality of your life. Free. Room: Lobby 10. Sponsor: UA Finance Board, mitBEEF.

10:15 a.m. – BCS Special Seminar - Wyatt Newman, Ph.D. “Towards Automatic Transfer of Human Skills for Robotic Assembly.” Free. Room: E25-401. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Writers Group. New writers are invited to join our weekly Writers Group (sponsored by the Writing and Communication Center). Share a piece of your writing with other interested and supportive writers. Open to all MIT students, staff, faculty, and spouses . Free. Room: 14N-417. Sponsor: Writing and Communication Center.

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. – Dreamweaver MX New Features Quick Start. Free. Room: N42 Demo Center. Sponsor: Information Services and Technology.

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Rainbow Lounge Open. MIT’s resource lounge for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender, and questioning members of the community offers a place to hang out, various activities, and a lending library during its open hours. Every Friday from 12-1 is a brown bag lunch!. Free. Room: Rainbow Lounge (50-306). Sponsor: lbgt@mit.

12:05 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. – Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

1:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Boston Open 2004. USA Badminton Sanctioned National Ranking Tournament. Boston Open is one of the largest badminton tournament in the US. Featuring top US players and Tony Gunawan, Sydney 2000 Olympic gold medalist. If you think badminton is a backyard sport, come see this spectacular event and think again! T-shirt for volunteers. Free. Room: MIT Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Badminton Club, MIT.

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – Chemical Engng Spring Lecture Series. Protein Engineering Problems at the Heart of Biomedical Applications. Free. Room: 66-110. Sponsor: Chemical Engineering.

4:00 p.m. – BCS Colloquium - Chris Moore, PhD “A Touching Experience: Vibrissa Resonance, Somatosensory Frequency Maps and Tactile Motion Perception.” Free. Room: E25-117. Sponsor: Brain and Cognitive Sciences. Hosted by Mriganka Sur.

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. – A Random Tiling Model for Two Dimensional Electrostatics. Reception at 3:30 p.m. in Room 2-349. Free. Room: 2-338. Sponsor: Combinatorics Seminar. Department of Mathematics.

6:00 p.m. – Shabbat Services & Dinner. Celebrate Shabbat. MIT Hillel’s three religious communities hold Shabbat services at 6 p.m. (Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform) A community Shabbat dinner follows at 7 p.m. Cost for dinner only. Room: Religious Activities Center, Bldg w11. Sponsor: Hillel, MIT.

6:00 p.m. – Artists in Dialogue. Michael Mittelman in conversation with Denise Markonish, gallery director/curator of Artspace, a non-profit alternative art venue in New Haven, Conn. Previously, she was curator at the Fuller Museum of Art, Brockton, Mass. Presented in conjunction with “Son et Lumière” (Feb. 12-April 4). Free. Room: E15. Sponsor: List Visual Arts Center.

6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. – GCF Trip to the Children’s Museum. Come nurture your inner child with us as we visit the local Children’s Museum! Free. Room: Student Center Twenty Chimneys (W20-306). Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship, GSC Funding Board.

6:15 p.m. - 6:50 p.m. – CCC Friday Dinner. Meet us for dinner before Real Life Boston in the Student Center’s Alpine Bagel. Free. Room: Alpine Bagel. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

6:55 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – CCC Real Life Boston. Did you know that there are 42 campuses in the greater Boston area? Well, wouldn’t it be cool to fellowship with Christians from all these schools? You can! Campus Crusade for Christ and Park Street Church have a city wide college ministry. Real Life is a group of students from colleges all over Boston. The Campus Crusade for Christ Fellowships from all these schools get together to worship God, seek His will, and grow in our faith. Real Life is on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m. (usually in the Science Hall at Harvard University). MITCCC meets at 77 Mass Ave at 6:55 PM to take the #1 bus as a group. All are welcome!. Free. Room: Student Center Steps. Sponsor: Campus Crusade for Christ.

7:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m. – MIT Anime Club Showing: 12 Kingdoms, Gungrave, Dokkoida. The MIT Anime Club shows the best of both recent and classic Japanese animation. Showings are open to the public. Tonight: Twelve Kingdoms, Gungrave, and Dokkoida. Free. Room: 6-120. Sponsor: Anime Club, MIT, UA Finance Board.

7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. – ACF Large Group meeting - “Our Role in Redemption.” Worship, teaching, discussion, food, fun! Prayer meeting at 6pm. All are welcome! Free. Room: McCormick Brown Living Room. Sponsor: Asian Christian Fellowship.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Calendar Girls. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Bible Study. Is there more to life than grad school? We believe the answer is “YES!” Come study the word of God with us. There will be dinner provided and games afterward. Free. Room: 1-150. Sponsor: Asian Baptist Student Koinonia Graduate Division, GSC Funding Board.

8:00 p.m. – Much Ado About Nothing. \$8, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

10:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – Calendar Girls. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

Saturday, March 20

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. – First Annual HCT-MIT Global Entrepreneurship Conference - Dubai. Entrepreneurs are the engines of the economy. National development occurs through entrepreneurship, and the success of the enterprise economy machine depends on the quality of its engine - that is, the process of allocating resources for the generation of productive and innovation-driven rather than rent seeking undertakings. Productive and innovation-driven enterprises constitute the army trained to fight on the ground of competition.Sponsor: MITEntrepreneurshipCenter.

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Boston Open 2004. Free. Room: MIT Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Badminton Club, MIT.

9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. – Volunteer at Cradles to Crayons!. We’re going to be volunteering at Cradles to Crayons, a nonprofit in Quincy, MA. Cradles to Crayons serves children in need in the greater Boston area

by collecting and distributing, free of charge, new and “gently used” children’s items. We will be helping them to sort through items so that they can be distributed to families. For more information on them, check out <http://www.cradlestocrayons.org> For this event we will need to carpool from MIT, so volunteers should let me know if they are able to drive others. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot outside of Bldg 68 on Saturday, March 20th. We will volunteer from 10am-3pm, lunch will be provided. Free. Room: depart from MIT to Quincy, MA. Sponsor: Graduate Student Volunteer Corps (GSVC), GSC Funding Board.

10:45 a.m. – IVCF Urban Plunge. A week of hands-on urban ministry. Stay at the fastest growing Spanish speaking church in Boston. Go into the Common w/Starlight’s homeless ministry. Serve at after school programs, boys and girls clubs, and teen outreach centers. Dive head on into race and economic justice/injustice issues and engage scripture in the midst of it. Ask staff for more info. \$80 for whole week. \$40 for freshmen. Sponsor: Black Christian Fellowship, UA Finance Board, United Christian Fellowship, MIT, Asian Christian Fellowship. IVCF New England, Tufts Christian Fellowship, Tufts Asian Christian Fellowship, Congregacion Leon de Juda, Starlight Homeless Ministries, etc.

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. – Graduate Christian Fellowship Bible Study. Currently studying the gospel of Luke. Free. Room: Edgerton Apt. 221. Sponsor: Graduate Christian Fellowship.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. – Isshinryu Karate Workout. Traditional Okinawan Karate in a Small Club Environment. Free. Room: DuPont Exercise Room. Sponsor: Isshinryu Karate-do at MIT.

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Guild Camp II. Learn how to write a game! Free. Room: 35-225. Sponsor: Assassins’ Guild, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Figure Skating Club Exhibition. MIT and Boston area skaters will perform their programs, including group ice dance numbers, singles, and pairs skating. Free. Room: Johnson Ice Rink. Sponsor: Figure Skating Club, MIT.

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Calendar Girls. \$3. Room: 26-100. Sponsor: LSC.

8:00 p.m. – Much Ado About Nothing. \$8, \$6 MIT/Wellesley students. Room: Sala de Puerto Rico. Sponsor: Shakespeare Ensemble.

8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. – Patrol. Travel to strange new classrooms. Meet interesting, unusual people, and kill them! Patrol is a high-action game of live combat with rubber-dart guns. Shoot your friends, then watch out as they try to take their revenge. Free. Room: 36-115. Sponsor: Assassins’ Guild, MIT.

Sunday, March 21

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. – Boston Open 2004. Free. Room: MIT Rockwell Cage. Sponsor: Badminton Club, MIT.


9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. – Mass. Free. Room: MIT Chapel. Sponsor: Tech Catholic Community.

8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m. – CSSA Dancing Party. Disco and Ballroom dancing. Free for MIT affiliates. Room: Lobdell. Sponsor: Chinese Student and Scholar Association, GSC Funding Board.

MIT Concert Band

and

Columbia University Wind Ensemble



Directors: Thomas Reynolds
Robert Rucinski, '99

Andrew Pease, Musical Director

Works by: Copland
Bernstein
Hanson
Kozhevnikov
Moussorgsky


Stravinsky
Sweelinck
Vaughn Williams
Whitacre

Sunday, March 28

3:00 PM

Kresge Auditorium

MIT



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Reception to Follow

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Sponsored by: MIT Concert Band and the UA Finance Board

Putnam Win Ends 24 Years of Being Ever So Close

Putnam, from Page 1

(18.S34), which exposes students to problems similar to those on the Putnam exam. One of the members of the 2003 team, Kane, had participated in the seminar last fall. Rogers noticed that he was “very good” and they decided to choose him although they have “very rarely put a freshman on the team.”

Rogers said that winning also “depends on a little bit of luck,” because “with the teams at the top, it’s always been close.” In addition, he said, stage fright and fatigue can also come into the picture, making the results of the competition unpredictable.

Rogers said that he is “very pleased” with MIT’s win but that since MIT had come in second many times, they “knew that it had to happen.”

MIT had a total of 120 participants, with 19 in the top 70, according to Rogers. An interesting outcome this year, he said, was that the

number of combined of MIT and Harvard students makes up more than half of the top 70 performers on the exam. “It just indicates the concentration of talent at MIT and Harvard,” he said.

Rogers said that in the recent past he and Stanley have not held any structured preparation prior to the test.

18.034 is “probably reasonable preparation,” Kane said, referring to the differential equations class. He said that his experience in high school math competitions and the math olympiad were useful.

Awards, celebration to come

Rogers said that a celebration would probably be held by the Putnam organizers after spring break. “In the past they have had a dinner for the team at a club in Boston,” he said.

The MIT math department will be awarded \$25,000, and each team member will receive \$1000. In addition, Barton and Kane will receive \$2500 as Putnam Fellows.

Winning Teams

Rank	School	Team Members (in alphabetical order)
1	MIT	Reid W. Barton, Daniel M. Kane, and Yevgeny K. Zaytman
2	Harvard University	Gabriel D. Carroll, George Lee, Jr., and Alexander B. Schwartz
3	Duke University	David G. Arthur, Nikifor C. Bliznashki, and Oaz Nir
4	California Institute of Technology	Zhihao Liu, Po-Ru Loh, and Po-Shen Loh
5	Harvey Mudd College	David J. Gaebler, Jason Murcko, and Andrew G. Niedermaier

MIT Students Who Placed as Individuals

Students are ranked by name within each grouping

Top 5	Reid Barton '05 Daniel M. Kane '06	Honorable Mention Timothy G. Abbott '06 Nikolay V. Andreev '05 Punyashloka Biswal '05 Po-Ning Chen '05 Maksym Fedorchuk '04 Pramook Khungurn '05 Sean P. Markan '05 Virgil C. Petrea '07 Shubhangi Saraf '07 Nikhil A. Savale '07 David G. Shin '05 Gary L. Sivek '05
Top 6-16	David A.G. Pritchard '04 Emanuel I. Stoica '05	
Top 16-26	Vladimir Barzov '06 Zhongtao Wu '05 Yevgeny K. Zaytman '05	

A total of 3615 students from 479 colleges and universities in the US and Canada participated in the Putnam Competition.

SOURCE : PUTNAM WEB PAGE: [HTTP://WWW.UNL.EDU/AMC/A-ACTIVITIES/A7-PROBLEMS/PUTNAM](http://www.unl.edu/amc/a-activities/a7-problems/putnam)

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Winners must be willing and able to display their work in the Wiesner Student Art Gallery. The show will hang in the gallery during Commencement, from mid-May 2004 through June 30, 2004.



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Student Art Association (W20-429)
Campus Activities Complex (W20-500) Office of the Arts (E1 5-205)

Students Miss Video Games, Moms During Holiday

Spring Break, from Page 1

cating the papers strewn across the table. The MIT Women’s Crew Team will be training in Florida.

The sunshine state is also the destination for Alan L. Gardner ’05 and three of his friends, who are going on a road trip. Gardner isn’t sure how far they’ll get, though, and says his plans are open for now.

Of course, for some, it is the warm weather that is unwanted, and they are bravely willing to venture into even more snow. Maria E. Hidalgo ’04 will go snowboarding

in Utah with her roommate. “I’ve been excited about it since December,” she said.

Daniel G. Oreper ’04 will be going skiing in New Hampshire this year, after a failed attempt last year to throw together a trip at the last minute. “I like extreme locations of all kinds,” he said, and added that “there’s nothing better than the crisp air of the mountains.”

“I feel that at MIT one often lacks the ability to do physical activity. I missed that,” Oreper said. He hopes to strengthen his legs

while skiing to help him prepare for playing soccer in the spring.

ASB provides community service

Approximately 70-80 students will participate in Alternative Spring Break, which is in its eighth year of providing community service trips over spring break.

Luis E. Vidal ’06 ASB Treasurer, said ASB is doing six service trips this year to the Cumberland Trail, Mt. Pleasant in South Carolina, West Virginia, California, Costa Rica, and Miami. Vidal will be going on the Environmental Conservation trip to help build part of the Cumberland Trail. “I’m looking forward to it,” he said. He also said he “probably will bring some work because I’m taking a lot of classes.”

Jennifer J. DeBoer ’05, ASB publicity chair, said that ASB “usu-

ally works for an already established service organization,” such as Habitat for Humanity. She arranged the trip to San Carlos, Costa Rica where they will be “working at a local orphanage teaching art.” The goal is to show them “different education than they’re used to” and introduce a “different way of thinking.”

Students applied in December to participate in ASB.

Campus expected to be sleepy

Students who are staying at MIT generally have one objective on their minds: to get some much-needed rest. “I’m going to recover from this semester,” said Jessica E. Rosenkrantz ’05.

Parmook Khungurn ’06 will also stay in his dorm, after missing his opportunity to buy a plane ticket to his home in Thailand. Khungurn

will “catch up on sleep,” “play video games,” and even do “a little bit of classwork.”

Another student who chose not to make the long trip home is Stephanie C. Cross ’05, who is from Hawaii. “When you’re there and over jet lag, it’s time to come back,” she said. As a result, Cross will hibernate inside and sleep. “Oh yes, I can barely remember the last time we had a break,” Cross said.

Sara D. Bissonnette ’04 is staying here because she is taking an acting class at Harvard. Beyond that, though, “sleep is fun,” she said. In addition, she will maintain a low-key week by playing video games and hanging out with many of her friends who are also staying on campus.

No matter what, spring break offers a brief window of time when we can all breathe deeply and relax.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH


Chalk footsteps decorate the sidewalk along Amherst Alley last Saturday. The footsteps were made as a project for Studio Seminar in Public Art (4.367), a graduate level public arts class, by Amanda P. Smith ’04, and led all the way to Massachusetts Avenue. A different set footsteps outlined with blue masking tape went through the infinite corridor. The project was made to emphasize the boundary between academic and social activities at the Institute.

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Council for the Arts at MIT Grants Program
is accepting applications for its next deadline

April 2, 2004

Please contact Susan Cohen (cohen@media.mit.edu) to set up an appointment to discuss your application

We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you *set up an appointment*

(proposals submitted for this deadline cannot support projects with a start date before May 13, 2004)

Currently registered MIT students, MIT faculty and MIT staff are eligible to apply
All types of arts projects are supported: visual, literary and performing arts

For more detailed information, read the Grants Guidelines on the web at:
<http://web.mit.edu/arts/grants/grantguide.html>

You may also submit your application from the web, at:
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Budget Forecast Assumed Rush Would Stay Constant

Fraternity, from Page 1

MIT thought rush would do as well

By October 2002, this assumption had turned out to be overly optimistic. FSILGs received about 290 pledges in 2002, compared with an average of about 344 for the years before 2002, according to Council. Instead of staying the same, the number of empty beds increased, from 190 last year to 260 this year. In December 2003, the student life office notified the fraternities that there was not enough money budgeted to satisfy the program's formula, and reduced this year's payments by 20 percent.

The student life office's description of the shortfall as "due to MIT's financial constraints" runs somewhat counter to remarks by high-level administrators earlier in the year, that MIT's financial problems would not affect student life. "The effect is going to be about zero on the things you might be concerned about in student life," President Charles M. Vest told the Undergraduate Association Senate in October, before the budget short-

fall in the Financial Transition Plan was disclosed.

Assistant Dean David N. Rogers, the director of FSILGs, defended the budgeting assumption that fraternities would continue to do as well at rush under the new residence system. "I think that's a pretty good assumption," he said, adding that some fraternities have done very well and some have not done as well. He allowed, though, that if the budget's assumption had been correct, the transition program probably would not have had a shortfall.

"The committee presented this formula and our proposal to MIT and to the chancellor," said Joshua S. Yardley '04, who was on the original committee that drafted the program. "Then MIT kind of put the price tag of \$1.5 million on it. At the time, as I remember it, the committee had some questions about, 'Well, what if the \$1.5 million isn't enough to provide for this formula that we've come up with?'"

"MIT reassured us that they were on our side," Yardley said, "that they would find the money."

MIT, IFC differ on commitment

Part of the reason fraternities have been upset is that, almost to a person, students and administrators have differed in their understanding of the actual commitment MIT made in 2002.

Administrators insist that MIT's commitment was to spend \$1.5 million — an amount never reported in *The Tech* or discussed in the Financial Transition Plan itself — and not necessarily to fully fund the Transition Plan's formula. "We committed an amount of money, and that's what we have spent," said Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75. "I certainly think the documents were very clear a couple of years ago that year one would be 750 [thousand dollars], year two would be 500, and year three would be 250," he said.

"I don't think there was any notion that we would allocate however much was decided would be good," Clay said. "In lots of ways around MIT, we've discovered we need more money than we have."

The Financial Transition Plan describes "what was anticipated we

could do," Council said. In the end, though, the plan's formula is "a guideline," he said.

Perhaps as might be expected, students say their understanding was different: that MIT had committed to follow the Financial Transition Plan as written. "That was obviously our understanding," said Daniel H. Daneshvar '05, the Interfraternity Council president. "I think most fraternities are pretty upset about this," he said. "There's obviously a disconnect."

Pius A. Uzamere II '04, the Undergraduate Association president, said that his understanding was also that MIT would follow the plan.

Some fraternity members likened the shortfall to a bait-and-switch operation. "They buy the fraternity system's easy compliance with having freshmen on campus by claiming they want to make sure no house fails financially, and then as soon as the original students involved are graduated, the amount changes," Brian T. Neltner '05, who lives at Tau Epsilon Phi, wrote in an e-mail. "MIT needs to uphold its

contractual obligations to its student body."

Future may include extension

This year's total rush was similar to last year's, leading to a likely figure of about 330 empty beds in FSILGs next year, or funding of \$430,000 from the Financial Transition Plan's formula — \$180,000 more than has been allocated.

Daneshvar and Uzamere have met with Clay to discuss additional financial support for fraternities, and Daneshvar, who stressed that financial support must not become "a crutch," will meet with the FSILG Task Force to discuss the issue later this term.


"I think there's a probability the committee will say something about extending the financial aspects of the transition," said Professor Patrick H. Winston, co-chairman of the task force. "We think that the transition isn't over."

The task force is expected to release its report by the end of the semester. "I don't think we will do anything until we review that task force report," Clay said.

Don't forget to laugh once in a while

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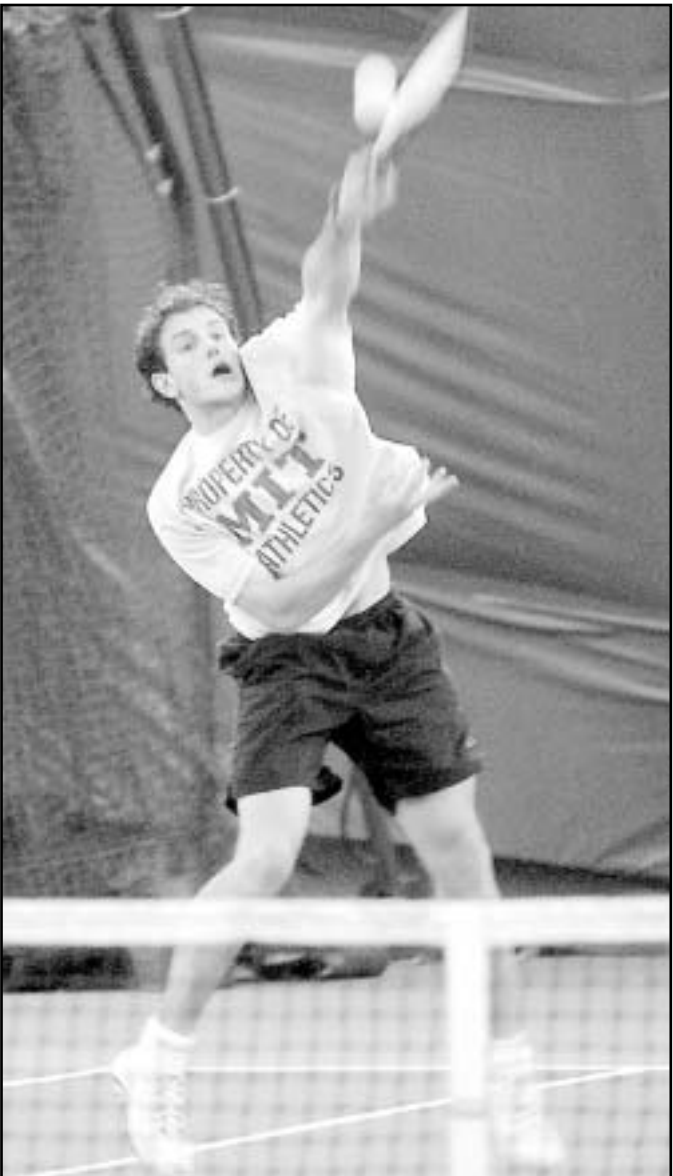
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DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Vitaliy Pereverzev '06 hurls the ball towards his Bates College opponent during his first match after having his eligibility reinstated by the NCAA. Pereverzev won his first match since last spring 7-5, 6-3, and also won his doubles match alongside Michael H. Ogyrdziak '04. MIT soundly beat Bates 5-2, and improved their season record to 4-3.



PETER R. RUSSO—THE TECH

A Cambridge Police officer is loaded into an ambulance Tuesday night after running his vehicle (seen in background) into a tree in front of the MIT nuclear reactor on Albany Street. The officer was having heart trouble at the time of the accident.

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Solution to Crossword
from page 10

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SPORTS

Harvard Edges MIT In 5 Tough Matches

By Paul Dill

TEAM COACH



In the most fun and compelling match of the season, the varsity men's volleyball team ended its season by pushing Harvard to the very edge of defeat. In what was supposed to be an easier match (at least on paper) for the much taller Harvard squad, the Engineers played some of their best volleyball of the season and showed that they are a program on the rise.

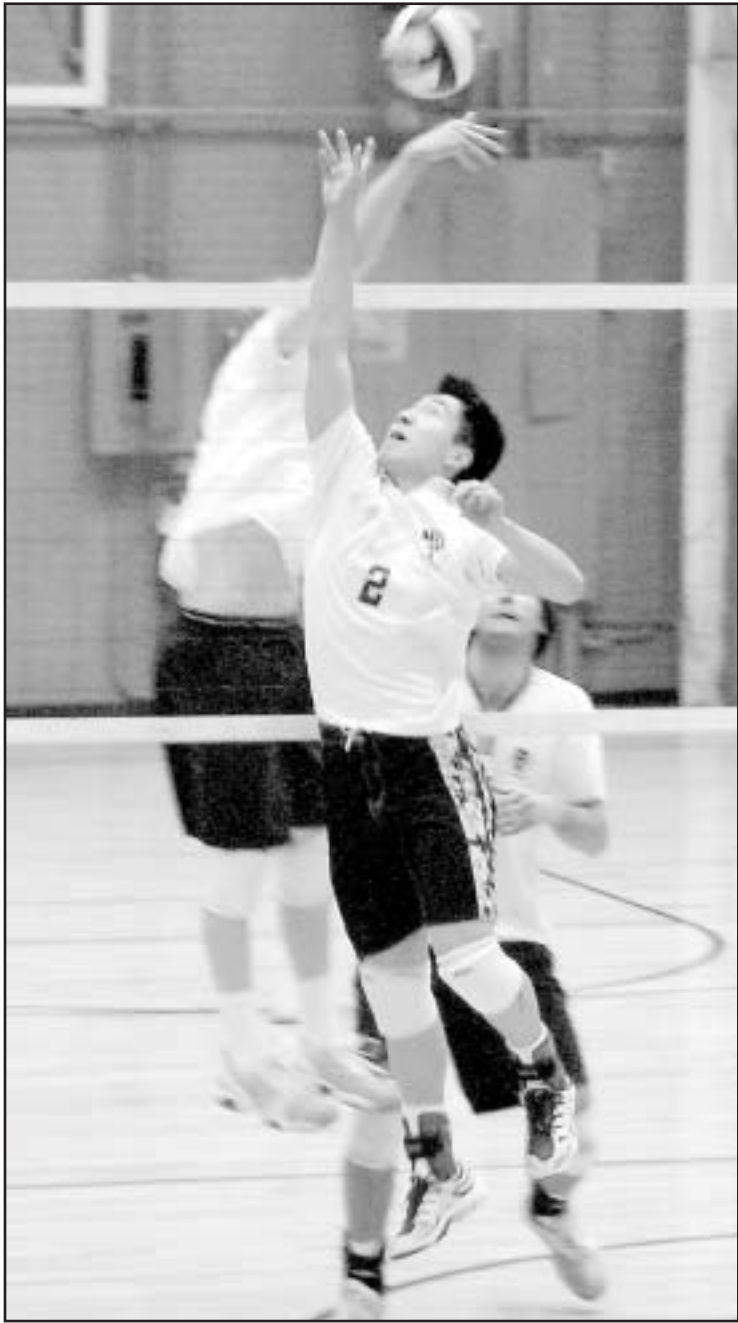
From the first points of the match, it was a back and forth battle that stayed close throughout. Harvard was able to win the first game 30-28, but the Engineers fought back in the second game, winning in convincing fashion with the score of 30-23. MIT continued to keep the pressure on and built a 28-26 lead in the third game, but their opponents made a last minute run and stole the game 30-28.

With their backs to the wall, the Engineers refused to lie down and came out fighting in the fourth game building a nice lead late in the game once again. Harvard again made a late run, but this time MIT slammed the door shut winning 30-28. The deciding fifth game was more of the same intense fighting for every

point, which saw the Engineers stay aggressive throughout and almost pulled off an amazing win. However, Harvard proved to be a bit stronger on the day taking the fifth game 15-12.

Rob McAndrew '05 and Kabir Mukkadam '05 led the offense with 27 and 17 kills, respectively, while Jordan Wan '06 dished out 50 assists in the effort. Carlos Dorta-Quinones '04 and Hao Hu '04 anchored the defense with 16 and seven digs, respectively, while strong role play by defensive specialists Joseph Yu '04 and Jason Park '05 were also key in the effort.

The team ends its season with an overall record of 12-14, which is the first ten win season and best record for the program since 1993. The squad actually came one point away from finishing .500 for the first time in 11 seasons as well. Although a .500 season was one of the goals for this season, the more important goal was to build a solid foundation and team culture from which the program could move forward. This last match shows how much the team has grown and how far the program has come in a single season, and it shows the team how much potential it has to be a force to reckon with next season.



DMITRY PORTNYAGIN—THE TECH

Jordan X. Wan '06 attempts to tip the ball over a Harvard University defender's hand. MIT nearly defeated the Division I Harvard squad, losing in a 5-set nailbiter, 28-30, 30-23, 29-31, 30-28, 12-15, after failing to convert a 27-22 lead in the third set.

Have a Good Break!

Shall We Dance?

By Phil Janowicz
and Brian Chase

SPORTS EDITORS

On Tuesday, if a reader had turned to page 18, he would have seen NCAA Tournament Brackets filled out by Sports Editors, Phil Janowicz and Brian Chase. We wanted a chance to justify our Final Four picks before we reach that point in the tournament.

Column

Brian's Picks:

In the St. Louis region, I simply do not see someone stronger than Kentucky in the field. A lot of people say Gonzaga will defeat UK in the regional final (including Phil), but I think Kentucky is better coached. In addition, Gonzaga isn't the underdog they have been, and they now have to deal with expectations. Kentucky is coming in hungry after having been denied a Final Four berth by Marquette last year.

As many people picked Duke to win the Atlanta region that picked Gonzaga to win the St. Louis region. Following my trend of not picking the absolute favorite, I think Mississippi State will beat them in the regional final. The key to beating Duke is to shut down J.J. Reddick (as well as play excellent basketball), and Miss. St. has the tools to do that. That doesn't give Miss. St. a huge advantage, but it is certainly possible for it to happen.

In the Phoenix region, there really isn't any challenge to Stanford that I can see past Connecticut. And I give the advantage to Stanford in that match-up because Stanford plays better team ball and because I think Emeka Okafor of UConn will try too hard in the early rounds and re-injure his back. Even if that doesn't happen, Stanford doesn't have the weaknesses of UConn, and they have a knack for winning tight games.

Finally, in the East Rutherford region, I picked Pittsburgh. Really, this is my most uncertain pick because Wisconsin or Oklahoma St. could just as easily win this division. About the only thing sure is that St. Joseph's won't go to the Final Four. Among the three teams I mentioned, I saw Pittsburgh as having the best balance of inside and outside scoring and the most mental toughness. That's the reason why they will survive what is the toughest half-bracket of the entire tournament and will get to the Final Four.

Phil's Picks:

I am no longer alone in my Zags enthusiasm. It's time for the Bulldogs from Spokane, Washington, to take what is rightfully theirs: a national champi-

onship. Coming off a 27-2 season including a perfect run through the West Coast Conference, Gonzaga enters the tournament a number two seed in the St. Louis region with sights on free tickets to San Antonio. The great guard play of Blake Stepp and Kyle Bankhead will keep the Zags running over their opponents and shooting, and their superior coaching will allow them to rise above the proverbial pile in the St. Louis region.

The pairing of this region that upsets me most is the pairing of my two favorite Cinderella teams in the first round with my Zags playing Homer Drew's Valparaiso team. Most fans remember the amazing last second three-pointer by Bryce Drew, son of coach Homer, to defeat Ole Miss a few years ago. Sure, Valpo's a lowly number 15, but they have a sentimental place in my basketball heart. It's just a shame. That's all.

In Atlanta, it's all peachy for Duke to breeze past possible opponents of Miss. St. or Xavier. Despite reports to the contrary, this region will be a breeze to Coach K's Dukies, and the Blue Devils will be dancing in the moonlight in Ted Turnerville.

The Phoenix region contains such powerhouses as Stanford, Connecticut, and ... uh ... University of Texas at El Paso? Yeah, trees in a breeze in the desert.

Now, look out for the East Rutherford region because anyone could emerge as the oil in this water bath. St. Joe's is the odds-on favorite, but the powerful three-point powerhouse Tigers from Memphis could maul the Hawks. Conference USA's player of the year Antonio Burks leads an accurate Memphis team that can fire from long range and dish it inside with the rest of them. Coach Cal has done wonders with this program, and it's time Memphis gets the respect they deserve.

The upsets I see occurring may shock a few and leave others in awe. Maybe some of you haven't seen Western Michigan play this year, but their excellent play in the game against the College of Charleston proved to me the depth and strength of their team. I see them going to the sweet sixteen. Also, the Jaspers from Manhattan drew the weak Florida Gators and will probably face struggling Demon Deacons of Wake Forest in the second round. Look for the Jaspers to advance until they hit the Jameer Nelson roadblock.

And those are the reasons for our seemingly drastic claims for college basketball supremacy. Hopefully, our picks make more sense now because we'd hate to lose credit for not showing work.

Picking March's Winners is Madness!

By Yong-yi Zhu

SPORTS COLUMNIST

It's that time of the year again. Bracketology, March Madness, the Road to the Final Four, the Big Dance.

Column

Whatever you want to call it, college basketball is going to be taking over the lives of sports fans for the next two weeks. It's time when everyone prints out his brackets in order to join some pool, somewhere. We all go on one criterion or another in order to make our picks because we are convinced that our selections are the right picks.

Some people make their picks from statistics. Because Arizona scores 87.5 points per game and Duke scores 79.8 points per game, it looks like the Wildcats have that game pretty much nailed already. Because Air Force's defense only gives up 50.4 points per game and is tops in the nation in that category, while University of North Carolina isn't even in the top 25 in defense, it's pretty obvious that Air Force is going to win that game. And if you look at the stats for three-point shooting percentage, Virginia Commonwealth makes 38.6 percent of their threes while Wake Forest only shoots a measly 38.3 percent. Well, I'm definitely going to mark VCU over Wake on my sheet.

Other people think that rankings are the way to go in making their picks. "Look, a number one seed is better than a number two seed is better than a number six seed is better than a number 12 seed." Sure there may be a few upsets here and there, but in general, the higher seeds are definitely going to win, right? Why else would they be

ranked higher anyway? That means that Kentucky is definitely going all the way. There's no question about that.

Finally, there are those that go on more obscure ways of deciding. A popular method is the "Who's Hot, Who's Not" technique, picking who is going to win purely based on how hot players on a specific team are. Another is the mascot challenge where the fuzziest, cutest, and funniest looking mascots get picked over the dull-colored, mean-looking and boring mascots. The Syracuse Orangeman is a popular mascot by this standard while the Stanford Cardinal is less likely to win a beauty contest. (Who has a tree for a school mascot anyway?)

I think all those techniques are pretty weak because I know who will be the national champion come April 5. Isn't it obvious that Eastern Washington is going to win it all? Come on, look at their stats. They score 70.6 points per game and grab 30.7 rebounds per game; both of these statistics are decently solid. Now look at their free throw shooting percentage, which is 70.3 percent; it ranks just outside the top 25. Also, they make 6.1 three-pointers per game, which is more than I can say for their first round opponent, the Oklahoma State Cowboys. Man, I'm feeling pretty good about Eastern Washington and pretty sorry for Oklahoma State right now. Oh, and did I mention that their mascot is an eagle? The mascot is truly a symbol of freedom and integrity that will bring nothing but fear to the eyes of the cowboys when they meet later today.

Okay, so none of these techniques are great and almost none of them will correctly predict all of the

games in the NCAA tournament. However, nobody critiques their lack of a scientific method because we do not know what is going to happen until it actually happens. Anything could be right in theory. So our instinct might as well be good enough. On the other hand, the NCAA committee sits down and thinks about all the decisions that they have to make and comes up with a solution through much deliberation. They consider things like overall statistics, ratings percentage index, and how the team has played in the past several games and put together a composite of where each team fits into the tournament. They have to consider what happens if a team wins a game in order to potentially fit a next round opponent to them. After all, they don't just sit down and randomly fill one of these charts out.

However, people are on them like crazy the moment the brackets come out. Why is Wisconsin a sixth seed? Why is Utah State not there? Why is St. Joseph's a number one seed? These are questions that the committee has most definitely considered, and I'm sure and they've come to agree on the bracket that they present as the best way to resolve this difficult problem of picking 65 teams and placing them on this map. Take last year as an example, when everyone questioned the entering of Auburn in the tournament. Perhaps it was luck on the part of the committee, but Auburn sure performed well.

I don't mean to say that the committee is perfect, but it's just that how can we complain when they put so much effort into this matter, while we jot down an entire bracket within a matter of minutes?